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CIA Man Defends

By STEVE HOFFMAN

The Central Intelligence Agency "is not a policy maker, but simply supplies information" Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, the agency's deputy director, said Friday at Oklahoma Christian College.

But if the agency is to keep gathering information "we need the understanding of the American people. They need to understand what we do and why we do it," Walters said.

Walters said when he attend a National Security Council or cabinet meeting and a policy decision must be made, "I keep my mouth shut."

He said the agency's "responsibility is to tell what the situation is and how we see it."

But, because of recent congressional investigations, Walters said a number of Americans believe gathering information is wrong.

He said, however, most persons don't realize a strong intelligence community is a deterrent against attack by a foreign power "because they know that we know."

Speaking before about 300 high school and college students, Walters admitted there have been some abuses committed by CIA personnel.

"There have been some abuses and some things we prefer wouldn't have happened," Walters said. "We understand security must not be used to cover up abuses."

A guest speaker at the third annual Senator's Conference with Youth, Walters said the U.S. is in a "tri-power world with two giant powers facing us today."

"We will do our part in intelligence to see our nation is not surprised. We're committed to not being surprised again."

Walters, a longtime CIA

figure, said a president can't act on treaties with foreign governments without information the CIA provides.

"Intelligence is a force for peace," he said. "A president couldn't sign an arms limitation treaty with the Soviet Union unless he knew the treaty would be carried out."

Walters said the greatest threats facing the U.S. are the Soviets and the Red Chinese.

"We see them (Russia) quite prepared through proxies (Communist block countries) to move against us," Walters said.

He said the Soviets during the past few years have added one million men to their armed forces, improved their military technology and their presence at sea.

"We've seen the Soviet Union deploy five new generations of three missiles and create a large number of submarines," Walters said. "They have new aircraft with the capability of attacking the

U.S."

"Tomorrow China will have these capabilities," he said.

Walters said there are three methods the agency uses in obtaining information -- media publications, technical and clandestine.

Monitoring a national publication -- such as Russia's Pravda -- Walters said the CIA can keep close tabs on political figures and foreign policy.

International technical meetings and spy hardware keep the agency in touch with a country's technology, he said.

But, he said the most infamous method -- clandestine operations -- makes up the smallest portion of the CIA budget.

"It really represents a very small part, but it's an important part of what we do," Walters said.

"No technical method will get you inside a man's head," he said. "Only people can know people."

The work of the CIA, he said

Agency's Role

allows the country to project its military budget and keeps down the cost of unneeded military hardware.

"Defense costs are tailored to our own needs to keep up with foreign countries," Walters said.

He said without the CIA "defense costs would soar out

of sight" because the country would have to overprotect itself if it didn't know what kind of force other nations have.

Without the agency, Walters said the U.S. could "stumble blindly" in the near future into "abject humility" inflicted by other nations.

CIA deputy to address youth group

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, will be featured speaker at the Third Annual "Senators Conference with Youth" Friday at Oklahoma Christian College, Oklahoma City.

Walters, who has been CIA deputy director since 1972, will explain the methods and goals of the CIA and the methods used to achieve those goals, according to Sen. Dewey F. Bartlett.

"The conference will give Oklahoma students a chance to learn about the American intelligence community, especially in light of the many questions that have arisen about the proper function of the CIA," Bartlett said.

Bartlett also expressed hope that students attending the conference will receive a first-hand report on the vital and legitimate role of the CIA in national defense.

Following his luncheon address, Walters will join with Bartlett and Sen. Henry Bellmon in informal discussions with students during the afternoon session of the conference.

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Youth

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